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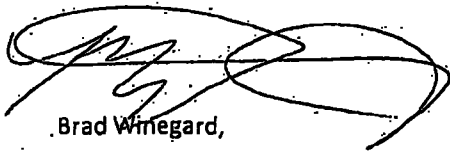
To whom it may concern;

In the early part of this year a mutual friend told me that CDR Thomas O'Malley was tired of the nonsense in Washington, DC and was tossing his hat into the political arena. I worked with the good CDR in 2005-2006 and am quite familiar with his integrity and strength of character. I personally feel he would be a great candidate and the people of MASS should listen to his message.

I was elated that somebody with integrity was finally running for office. Didn't matter that I am a Florida resident, I know the CDR and we need his type of integrity in Washington. I wrote a note and posted it in a PRIVATE room on a social media site singing the praises of the CDR to a group of folks that mostly knew the CDR. In it I told the private audience of our peers to help one of our own and send money. This is common amongst some members of the military and is not intended to solicit funds from anyone. It was more of a satirical way of getting behind someone and doing what they can do to assist. The Navy has a tradition of taking care of one another, some folks don't understand that. To those naïve individuals that have to dig for dirt on someone because of your own shortcomings, if you knew the audience I spoke to that day, you'd be ashamed making those accusations about CDR Thomas O'Malley. I am pretty sure that not one person that read that message I put out gave any kind of money to CDR O'Malley campaign, but he did get lots of prayers and moral support and that was what the intention of the note was. I did NOT post this in an open environment, the statement was meant for a particular audience that understood the statement. It was not meant for whiny individuals that don't understand and therefore had no business reading my posting.

To be clear to all, I am a retired, combat decorated, disabled, Senior Chief Boatswains Mate with just over 38 yrs of naval service. I am a long time Florida resident and other than being a man I respect, I have no other ties to CDR O'Malley. I do NOT solicit funds for anything, nor have I ever heard of the good CDR soliciting funds for anything. I do however send MY strongest endorsement for his win in November and pray Karma will deal with his opponent for making such ludicrous accusations.

VR/r



Brad Winegard,
BMCS(SW CC), USN ret.